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# THE MENACE

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## Romish Mystery

"It must be a curious thing for the average citizen to behold a small army of Catholic clergymen traveling together. One priest is mystery enough in himself to provide study for a society set for a whole season. One hundred can furnish mystery enough for a nation."

The above from the *Brooklyn Tablet*, September 18, 1915, is a fair capsule of Valerian as administered in "The Catholic Pulse" column of that Catholic paper.

Mystery? It is the bone and sinew, the very life, of the Roman Catholic church. Without it there would be no convents, no Houses of the Good Shepherd, no confessional and no purgatory. Rome feeds and fattens on mystery. The children of the church are wrapped in mystery from the cradle to the grave. The priesthood glories in its ability to mystify and deceive.

"No man is better known than the priest within Catholic circles." And there is the rub. The priest is too well known WITHIN Catholic circles and not well enough known outside. If the priest and his schemes were better known outside Catholic circles there might be fewer child slaves; fewer ruined

homes; less oppression and cruelty and less malevolent influence.

By cloaking her activities in a veil of mystery Rome is able to work upon the ignorance and emotions of her children and command obedience.

By withholding knowledge from the common crowd she is able to deceive and abuse those who may not conform to her beliefs or who oppose her practices and without the element of mystery she would lose her hold upon the children of the church. Without it she would be known upon the streets as the oppressor of the poor; in politics as the perverter of principles and the corrupter of individuals; in business as the exploiter of children and evader of taxes and inspection.

The priests of the warring countries are not "at the front" for nothing. Their time is spent between getting concessions granted for the pope, and in whipping up the "jolly-fish" Catholics in the trenches. Whether or not they are succeeding to any satisfactory extent, is not the question with Rome, who takes all she can get no matter how small the favors, but just now she is depressed by the thought that all soldiers who have been reciting the rosary beads in the trenches may not persevere in attending daily mass when peace comes! Perhaps the American cardinals can suggest something to hold the boys!

## COURTS SEND INNOCENTS TO HELL

THE MENACE will never cease its attack upon judges, police, sheriffs, constables and all other public servants who use their positions and abuse their powers in the diabolical practice of sending young girls into Rome's private and uninspected prisons.

Our readers may weary of our repeated exposures of the most stupendous and iniquitous system of slavery that ever existed among civilized people, but the cruelties practiced by Rome in these hell holes are too appalling to be ignored.

The Roman Catholic church, which makes great pretensions of piety and charity, has contrived to cajole, coerce or intimidate men whom the people have elected to positions of great moral obligation into committing acts of injustice. That monster which calls itself a church is taking innocent youth off our streets, out of our homes, with and without apparent legal process, and is hiding them away behind high walls and locked doors in penal servitude.

The same judges and police cannot enter, for the purpose of inspection, the places to which they send their victims. They cannot collect a license or a tax from the sweatshops that wring the very souls of their slaves for profit.

This monster which is eating into the vitals of our people and defying interference in any form must be curbed, DESTROYED, if the moral, mental and physical safety of our children is to be preserved.

And YOU, who read these lines, MUST STIR YOUR SELVES TO ACTION. THESE CONSCIENCELESS BEINGS WHO AID ROME MUST BE TAKEN OUT OF CONTACT WITH PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

No person, child or adult, criminal or not criminal, dependent or independent, should EVER, FOR ANY REASON, be placed for any period of time for any purpose in any institution PUBLIC OR PRIVATE that cannot be inspected by public officials at any time. And that inspection should extend from end to end, side to side and from top to bottom.

With arrogant Rome using every conceivable method and every possible power, from press to pulpit and from courts to congress, to bring the American people into subjection to her rule that she may enslave the children and rob the living and the dead, it is time to mark the enemy and wage relentless warfare upon every influence and every individual serving in any way to foster or defend her treacheries and promote her infamies.

No man can deny that Rome DOES USE THE COURTS to secure slaves for her sweatshops when such items as the following appear with appalling frequency in the newspapers. Can you conscientiously cast your vote for men who will send your children into slavery and hell?

EVERY HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD IS A PRIVATE PRISON—OWNED, CONTROLLED AND OPERATED BY AND FOR THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Read these—they are taken from the daily papers and should be enough to arouse you to action:

Linnie Culver, a young girl picked up by the probation officers was in the juvenile court Monday forenoon and found to be a delinquent. She was ordered by Judge Allen to be taken to the House of the Good Shepherd to be cared for until she arrives of age.—*Commercial-News*, Danville, Ill., Aug. 23, 1915.

GIRL MAKES ESCAPE—Anna Pryor, 14 years old, said to be the daughter in a wealthy family living at Saginaw, yesterday escaped from the House of the Good Shepherd where she has been confined. The sisters of that institution have appealed to the police in an effort to locate the girl.—*Grand Rapids (Mich.) Herald*, Sept. 23, 1915.

Alberta Woolsey, a 15-year-old girl who has been under the care of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd since she was 11, was awarded to the custody of her mother, Mrs. Mary Pollard, yesterday afternoon by Judge Kenneth Force, on habeas corpus proceedings. In the petition asking that she again have the care of her daughter, Mrs. Pollard said that she did not realize that the papers giving the child into the care of the home maintained by the sisters provided that the child should remain until she became 18.—*Dallas (Tex.) Evening Journal*, Aug. 18, 1915.

Mention is made in another column of the sensational escape from the House of the Good Shepherd, Hartford, of Miss Mary Bajor, of Maple street, South Farms, and a Miss Leineweber, of the Durant district. Probation Officer Kinney stated this noon that the Bajor girl would not have to return to the institution, but that officers were searching for Miss Leineweber, who is better known as Webber. Miss Fassett, a state officer, came here this afternoon, located both girls and took them back to the institution.—*Middleton (Conn.) Penny Press*.

Buffalo, Aug. 2.—The crusade against girls who go riding on the rear seat of motorcycles, which is being vigorously conducted by the probation officers of the city court, aided by the city police, resulted in Helen Juriewicz, 16 years old, of 184 Goodfellow avenue, who also is known by the name of Helen Brown, being sent to the Good Shepherd reformatory for a term of six months.—*Elmira (N. Y.) Star-Gazette*, Aug. 2, 1915.

Helen Barnes Brienza, 16 years old, no longer is the wife of Frank Brienza. Judge W. G. Sears yesterday granted the young wife a divorce from her husband, with whom she eloped to Dakota City when 13 years old.

Mrs. Brienza, who was under commitment at the Good Shepherd's home, will not have to return to the institution. The court held that he could not send the girl back to the home as requested by officials of the institution, as he did not have the authority to do so. He intimated that her commitment there for the last year was not legal.

The girl's mother told the court Friday that she wanted her daughter to return to her home and that the girl probably will do.—*Sioux City (Iowa) Sunday Journal*, Sept. 19, 1915.

## COMSTOCKISM IS INDICTED

Infamous Law, Framed Solely to Serve the Ends of Injustice, Now Being Used by the Romish Oppressor to Destroy The Menace and Imprison Its Staff—Comstock's Alliance With Catholicism is Demonstrated Beyond All Doubt

BY WALTER HURT

From a few friends of THE MENACE who evidently are befogged as to the facts of the case and its related issues, has come some rather severe criticism of my article on Anthony Comstock in last week's paper. In order to enlighten these misguided objectors, I will explain my position in the matter by setting forth the following salient facts:

First: The United States Comstock Law is the weapon being wielded by Rome to destroy THE MENACE. This fact has been admitted by one side and accepted by the other. We cannot successfully resist the enemy if we ignore his weapon.

Second: The issue is transparent and must be squarely met. If Comstockism is right, then THE MENACE is wrong and has no defense.

Third: Comstockism being iniquitous, as I shall hereafter prove, it must be discredited, else THE MENACE will fail of vindication. And Comstock was the personification of Comstockism—the incarnate spirit of iniquity. The twin can not be divorced. One can not effectively be attacked if the other go scatheless. The man can not be detached from his methods. There are those who hold it proper to exorcise the personal sins of priests, because priestcraft fundamentally is the fruit of the church; yet these same persons are so inconsistent as to take exception to a personal arraignment of Comstock, who is not the development but the deviant, who holds the same relative connection with Comstockism that the hierophant has with the hierarchy. In this instance they would protest the product, but would refrain from laying the ax of destruction to the root of the parent tree. We can not consistently revile an emanation without respect to its source. Elsewise might a stream rise above the level of its origin.

Fourth: Syllogistically speaking, Comstock was essentially evil; he was the creator of Comstockism; no good can come out of Gomorrah.

As a simpler illustration, His Satanic Majesty as a reputed personality does not greatly concern me, but the principle of evil which in him is personified is scarcely to be commended; ergo, I do not regard it as reprehensible to denounce the devil.

That Comstock was a moral monstrosity is not largely important. The thing of consequence is the harmful potentiality of the movement he represents—the spirit of persecution crystallized to concreteness and vitalized into action.

We must make war on Comstockism, and we can not do this and defend Comstock. Besides, no righteous person should wish to defend, even negatively, that which is indefensible—to cover iniquity with the cloak of silence.

Admittedly it is true that we should deal with principles instead of with persons, with ideas rather than with individuals, but where a principle is so intimately identified with a personality that division for separate discussion is impossible, we must perforce consider them together. This inexorably is the case with Comstock and Comstockism.

Now, let us consider casually the Comstock Law in order to get a line on Comstock—that we may judge the progenitor by his progeny, and see if injustice has been inflicted upon him.

Prior to the enactment of the U. S. Comstock Law, there was a statute adequate for the indictment and conviction of persons guilty of obscenity. This was not sufficient, however, for the ulterior purposes of the Roman Catholic hierarchy and institutions of similar sinister character. It was by them deemed desirable to procure a law of such plastic provisions that it would insure the conviction of innocent persons upon whom they

chose to wreak their wrath, with the obnoxious charge of obscenity as a convenient pretext.

The inadequacy of the old law for the persecution of innocence had been demonstrated as early as 1872, in the case of that eminent eccentric, George Francis Train, then a newspaper publisher in Boston, who was arrested on the charge of "circulating obscenity." It was brought out at the trial that the allegedly obscene matter consisted of excerpts from the Bible, and Train was released. It transpired that Train's purpose in subjecting himself to arrest was to test the integrity of the law's intent.

### New Weapon Is Devised

It thus was made evident that Rome and her allied rascals must arm themselves with a weapon more efficacious than this clumsy club.

So that stultified statute known as the U. S. Comstock Law was conceived. The following year Anthony Comstock became a post-office inspector, and his long crusade of crookedness and cruelty under the guise of morality was begun. All things not Romish were made victims of his ruthless rule. Literary classics were suppressed. Art exhibitions were closed. Masterpieces of sculpture in public places were demolished. Blackmail was levied upon all possible persons who would submit to such extortion. Comstock operated under two different laws—the New York State Comstock Law and the United States Comstock Law. The latter applies exclusively to the mails, while the former covers all creation within the confines of the Empire State.

Of course Rome did not appear openly in these nefarious operations. As usual when expedient, she got a Protestant to do her dirty work, that she might escape blame from her victims' sympathizers. Always it is her cunning policy to utilize a Protestant puppet, when possible, for any performance which might entail disagreeable consequences, just as the crafty monkey used the cat's paw to draw his chestnuts from the coals.

If there be any who doubt Rome's actual relation to Comstockism, let them ponder this significant fact: Throughout his long and "perniciously active" official career, NEVER DID COMSTOCK Molest A CATHOLIC, NOR HAS A CATHOLIC EVER BEEN ARRESTED BY OTHERS UNDER THE COMSTOCK LAW.

If the Comstock Law was designed for the purpose of legitimate prosecution, the inevitable inference from this immunity is that ONLY PROTESTANTS ARE OBSCENE. We know better than this.

Yet the fact remains that the Comstock Law never has been applied to anybody or anything connected with Catholicism.

To those who do not understand the nature of this infamous law and the manner of its operation, it should be explained that it is constructive in its application. It does not define obscenity. Whether or not a thing is obscene is left to the discretion of the court. Should the judge for any reason, however remote from the fact, see fit to construe any given matter as obscene and instruct the jury accordingly, conviction is the inevitable consequence. Under this blind and blundering procedure, innocence in court stands about an equal chance with a sherriff in sheol.

### Comstock Deceives Many

No decent person, of course, condones obscenity, it being disintegrative of decency. By this reason, and because they have purposely been misled as to his true character and actual aims, many well-intentioned persons, especially in the West, honestly believe Anthony Comstock was a sincere man with an admirable mission. But in the East, where he was better known and understood, few

outside his own circumscribed clique ever were deceived in this direction. For more than a generation he has been a stench in the nostrils of respectability. Nearly all our secular papers, especially the powerful dailies and the influential weeklies of national circulation, have united in denouncing both the man and his methods. Conspicuous among these latter is a publication of such high standing as Louis F. Post's *The Public*, which has devoted much space to such denunciation.

### No Roman Catholic paper ever has voiced such protest!

In the East many Anti-Comstock Societies, whose membership embraces the best elements of their respective communities, have been organized for the sole purpose of combating Comstockism.

For a dependable opinion on the Comstock Law, from a source the integrity of which can not be impugned, I would commend all doubting readers to a report of the annual meeting of the National Purity Federation, Oct. 11, 1906, which unanimously adopted a resolution praying for relief from its evils. From the preamble to this resolution is taken the following:

"In view of the fact that purity workers are constantly placed in jeopardy because of the uncertainty of the judicial test of obscenity, and because the law has in some instances been made the means of injustice and cruel wrong; and in view of the fact also that the indefinite character of the law renders it impossible for anyone to know whether he is acting within the law, and because the law has been made a menace and a hindrance to many earnest workers whose efficient help is most seriously needed," etc.

### Which Side Are You With?

In the face of this expert testimony to the contrary from eminent and experienced moralists, who now will insist that Comstock and his law have been promoters of purity?

From my own personal experience I can give an example of Comstock's methods which shows conclusively that he was no veritable agent of virtue and morality. When, in Cleveland, early in 1899, my arrest under the Comstock Law was impending, Comstock's chief lieutenant and authoritative mouthpiece, a man named McAfee, whose baptismal name I am unable to recall, called upon me at my office and frankly confessed that my prospective indictment had nothing to do with the morality of the mails, but was for the purpose of suppressing my paper. "This is not a question of obscenity," he coolly informed me. "We intend to put you out of business."

As a large part of my circulation was through the news-stand trade, and most of my subscription list could easily be diverted to the same channel, I replied that in case I should be deprived of the use of the mails I would ship the paper to dealers by express.

"No you won't," he calmly contradicted. "We'll have passed an Interstate Commerce Law that will prevent you sending your paper out of this state, and it can't subsist on its Ohio circulation."

And he made good his boast. That Interstate Commerce regulation, devised for my undoing, is in force to this day.

BEFORE HIS DEATH, COMSTOCK CAME INTO OFFICIAL DISREPUTE. HIS METHODS WERE DISCREDITED, AND HE WAS DISMISSED FROM THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

### What Shall Be the Verdict?

The foregoing is only the first installment of the voluminous testimony in the case of Comstockism vs. THE MENACE. I will ask that Comstock apologists among MENACE readers will wait until all the evidence is in before rendering their verdict.

Being convinced of the truth of all I previously said about Comstock, I am equally convinced of

the propriety of printing it. If you will show me that I am wrong, that any statement of mine is untrue, I will publicly retract and apologize, like any just man and gentleman. Until you do present the proof of my error, however, you will find me standing pat on the proposition.

At any rate, I will say to the dissatisfied ones that, right or wrong, I AM PERSONALLY AND SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FORMER COMSTOCK ARTICLE, and I never was known to "pass the buck." Therefore, any blame, if blame there be, should attach to myself and not to THE MENACE.

This will more readily be understood by a reference to an announcement by me under the head of "A Personal Statement," in last week's issue, in which appears the following declaration:

"MY METHODS ARE MY OWN AND THE METHODS OF THE MENACE BELONG TO ITSELF; NEITHER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OTHER."

Whoever upholds Comstockism thereby harms THE MENACE defense and holds a brief for the prosecution.

So, friends and fellow-patriots, I ask you to make your choice between those twin terrors, Comstockism and Catholicism—and THE MENACE and JUSTICE.

## Incidental to Black Murder

Houston, Tex., Sept. 29.—Knights of Columbus and Roman Catholics have been excluded from jury service at Marshall, Tex., in the suit on trial there today of Mrs. John Rogers against an insurance company for \$4200 on an accident policy her husband held. Rogers lost his life Feb. 3 in a pistol battle in which William Black, an anti-Catholic lecturer, was shot to death. Mrs. Rogers claims her husband was accidentally killed.—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Sept. 29, 1915.

Such accidents are liable to happen when men go out to kill others.

Had John Rogers of Marshall, Tex., been a Christian as he professed to be instead of a Knight of Columbus Catholic, he would have stayed at home instead of going out gunning for anti-Catholics. Thus there would have been no "accident" of the kind and both he and Wm. Black might have been alive today.

That the Sacred Heart Sanitarium and the Knights of Columbus' Club house of Milwaukee, were built under non-union conditions or the open shop policy, has increased the Building Trades Council. Hereafter there will be no more accepting of credentials, and seating of fraternal delegates representing religious organizations by any of the allied unions throughout the United States. That the pretensions of the Roman Catholic societies are all bluff and hypocrisy, might have been known, but as it was not, the American Federation of Labor has been notified. The blandishments of Rome should never be trusted; remember that!

## MENACE CALLS OUT ITS RESERVES

BY WALTER HURT

Despite every effort being made by The Menace staff—and I assure you these efforts are something nearly superhuman—the circulation slump continues.

### THIS MUST BE STOPPED!

With the time rapidly approaching for the trial of The Menace editors and managers now under indictment in the Federal court at the instigation of Romish Inquisitors, the situation is truly desperate. The Menace can not successfully meet the marshalled strength of Rome in its own increasing weakness.

### SOMETHING MUST BE DONE!

The arm of The Menace must be strengthened and its hand upheld for the fight.

Here in Aurora we are doing all we can do. You friends out on the Firing Line MUST DO MORE THAN YOU ARE DOING.

We of the staff are working ceaselessly to turn the tide, doing all that is humanly possible, and we must have HELP.

A death-blow is being aimed at The Menace. I know that not one Menace reader wants to see the paper die. But I do not believe you realize the full proportions of the peril that confronts it. The danger is immediate and deadly.

The Menace—YOUR paper—is being SWIFTLY AND SURELY STRANGLING in the ruthless grasp of Rome.

### GET BUSY, FRIENDS, AND SAVE THE MENACE!

Start in to-day, keep it up to-morrow, and don't stop until The Menace is rescued and the minions of Rome are routed.

"Delay is dangerous" always, and in the present case it would be FATAL—to The Menace.

Many of my friends to whom I talked about this matter in The Menace last week have done their part nobly. Except for their response, the discouragement of The Menace staff would be great indeed. I awaited this response with hopeful expectancy, and the messages it brought cheered me like a draught of some rare cordial. "This is for YOU!" said one who sent in a bunch of subscriptions. "For old time's sake," wrote another who sent in a large list. Nearly every letter breathed the same fraternal spirit. These tokens of remembrance, this evidence that I had not been forgotten by my friends—that their loyalty had survived the lapse of so many silent years—swelled my heart with a sense of gratitude and pride. But what it most meant to me was that their unselfish efforts were helping to save our four persecuted friends from prison. The effect of this success can best be described in the following verse:

'Twas like the cup of water we  
Are told to give to thirsting lips;  
'Twas like the rippling of the sea,  
At turn of tide, to stranded ships!  
'Twas like the green of hope, displayed  
To one who walks through desert sand;  
'Twas like the look—too long delayed—  
From Pisgah to the Promised Land!

True, a few from whom I expected first to hear, have not yet responded. I am sure, however, that the reason for this is only that they are a little slow. They are not yet awake to the necessity for immediate action, and I am certain I shall hear from them, and to some purpose, within another week. To these again I say:

### "SEND IN SUBSCRIPTIONS AT ONCE!"

And now upon every loyal member of the Firing Line I would urge the importance of quick action and extraordinary effort.

### WAKE UP! THE ENEMY IS NOT SLEEPING!

Every reader of The Menace who has not already responded to this emergency call, I now ask to send in, at once, at least four subscriptions.

### RALLY TO THE RESCUE!

EACH SUBSCRIPTION SENT IN AT THIS TIME WILL SERVE AS A LIFE-PRESERVER.

If The Menace is allowed to go down, America will be left to the mercy of Rome—and Rome knows no mercy!

### HUSTLE, FRIENDS, TO SAVE THE MENACE!